



Youghiogheny River Basin

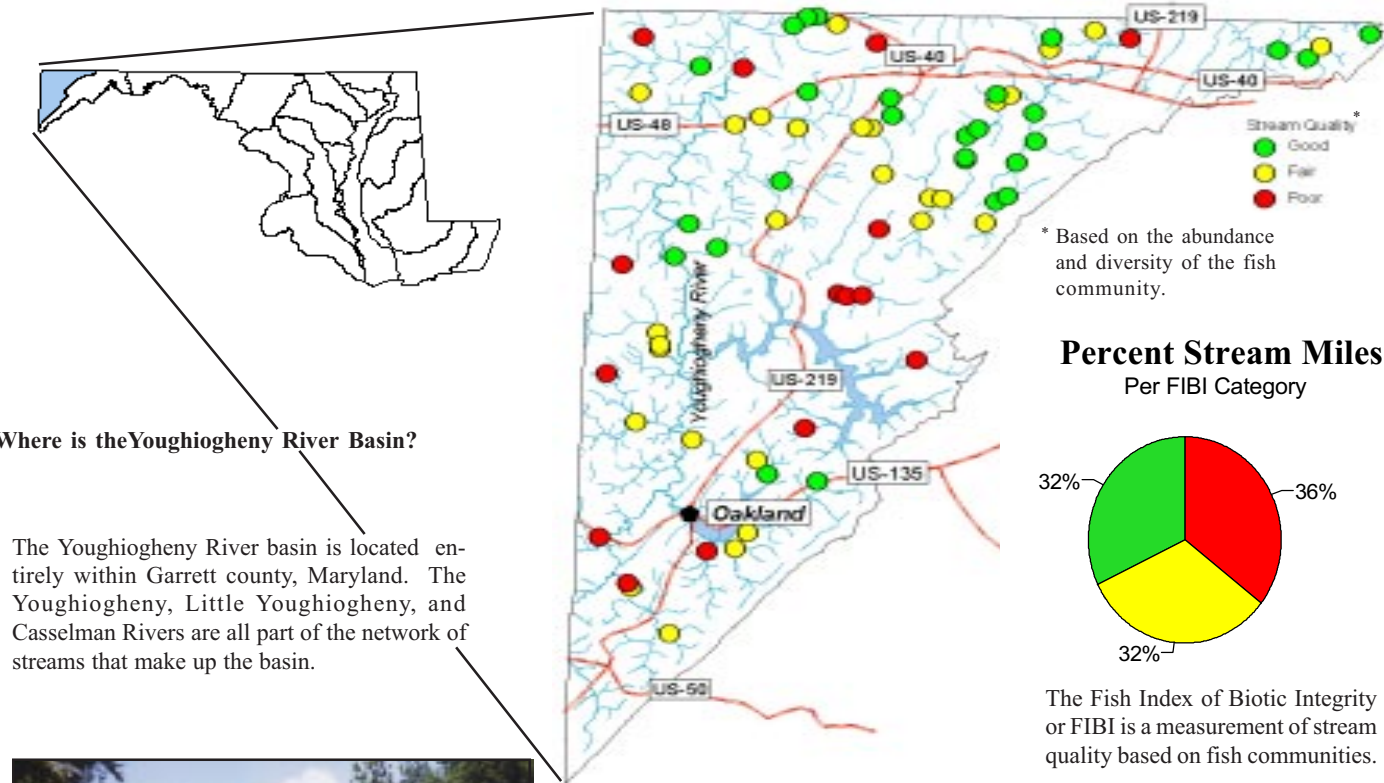
Current Status of Wadeable Streams

Where is the Youghiogheny River Basin?

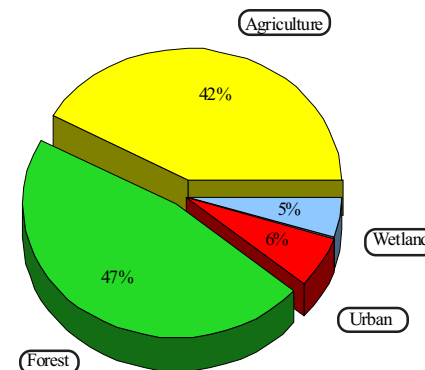
The Youghiogheny River basin is located entirely within Garrett county, Maryland. The Youghiogheny, Little Youghiogheny, and Casselman Rivers are all part of the network of streams that make up the basin.



by Tony Allred



Land Use in the Basin



Land use in the Youghiogheny River basin is primarily rural. The basin covers an area of 417 square miles with a population density of 43 people per square mile.



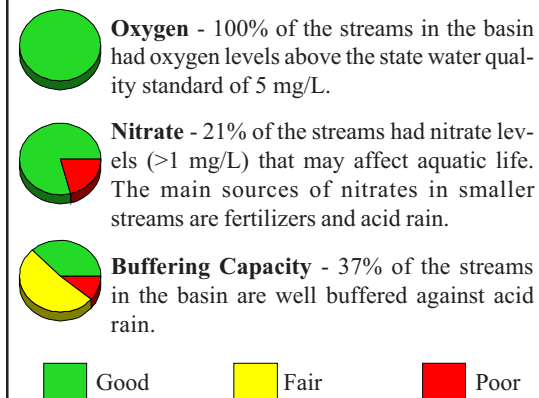
What Lives in Our Streams? *



Estimated Fish Abundance?: 1.7 million
 Number of Fish Species: 26
 Number of Gamefish Species: 5
 Number of Reptile and Amphibian Species: 12

* Based on the Maryland Biological Stream Survey collections in wadeable streams basin-wide during 1997.

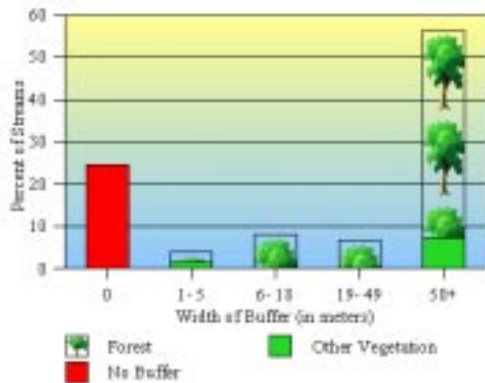
Water Quality



The Youghiogheny River is known for its scenic beauty and wild character.

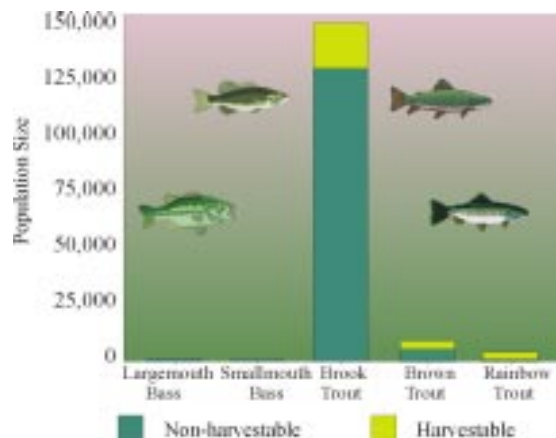
Riparian Zone

Trees, shrubs, and grasses that border a stream are called the stream's *riparian buffer*. This buffer zone can protect a stream against runoff, provides shade, stabilizes stream banks, and supplies food and shelter for aquatic life. A wide and intact buffer offers more protection than a narrow one. The riparian buffers in the Youghiogeny basin are in fair to good condition, although one fourth of the streams have no buffer at all. We can help maintain these buffers by protecting streamside forests and planting trees in disturbed areas.



Gamefish

Five species of gamefish were found in the Youghiogeny basin. The majority of the individuals were not of a harvestable size, implying that the wadeable tributary streams of the basin serve as a nursery for these gamefish.



Did You Know???



- In 1976 a portion of the Youghiogeny river extending from Millers Run to the southern limits of Friendsville was designated as Maryland's first "Wild River."
- The largest hemlock and white pine of record in Maryland are found within the Swallow Falls State Park, in the southwestern portion of this basin.
- The Youghiogeny is noted as one of the most outstanding white water rivers on the East Coast.



The brook trout, absent from most wadeable streams of Maryland where they were historically found, can be found in the Youghiogeny basin.

Community Involvement

Want to help? These community groups can show you how!

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
6600 York Road, Suite 100
Baltimore, MD 21212
Kathleen Millan (410) 377-6270



Stream Bank Stability

Eroded, unstable banks reduce habitat quality in streams and contribute to water quality problems in downstream areas. On average, the stability of stream banks in the Youghiogeny basin is good. This means that excess nutrients and suspended sediments in the streams are less likely to occur, a benefit for the fish and other aquatic life living in the basin.



Recreation

Swallow Falls State Park, Herrington Manor State Park, Mt. Nebo Wildlife Management Area, and Deep Creek Lake are just a few of the places in the basin that are available to fans of the outdoors. Popular activities include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, picnicking, swimming, water skiing and white water boating.



Swallow Falls, on Muddy Creek, is a popular summer swimming spot in the Youghiogeny basin.

For more detailed information on streams in the Youghiogeny basin and elsewhere in Maryland, contact Anne Smith of DNR/MANTA at (410) 260-8610 or email asmith@dnr.state.md.us, or check out the DNR web site at www.dnr.state.md.us/Bays/waterqual/mbss/mbss.html.